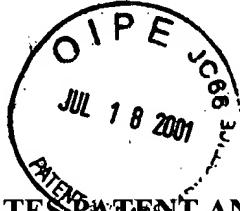


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PATENT APPLICATION  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

Nicholas C. NICOLAIDES, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/780,675

Filed: February 12, 2001

For: METHODS FOR GENERATING HYPERMUTABLE MICROBES

RECEIVED

Group Art Unit: 1641

JUL 20 2001

Examiner: To be assigned

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Attorney Docket No. 01107.00098

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits and in conjunction with the application filed on February 12, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, lines 5-7, please replace paragraph 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

*Subj* *AB* ~~This application claims the benefit of provisional application Serial No. 60/181,929 filed~~

~~February 11, 2000 and of provisional application Serial No. 60/211,183 filed June 13, 2000, which claims priority of PCT/US01/04339 filed February 12, 2001.~~